

SPORTS FINAL

Lady Warriors lose to E. St. Louis. Story, Page 1B

NEWS

A police dog helped police apprehend a suspected shoplifter after he fled from the local Kmart store. Page 2A

PEOPLE

Area residents flock to third annual Bridal Fair in Collinsville. Page 3B

Granite City Press Record

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1997

(USPS226-160) FIFTY CENTS

Page 3B

Bowler gets top spot among 33 on city ballot

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

Paul Bowler's name will appear first on the ballot in Granite City among four candidates for mayor. Including the mayoral candidates, 33 names will appear on the April 1 consolidated election ballot in the city, where a city clerk, treasurer, eight aldermen, a township supervisor and assessor are to be elected.

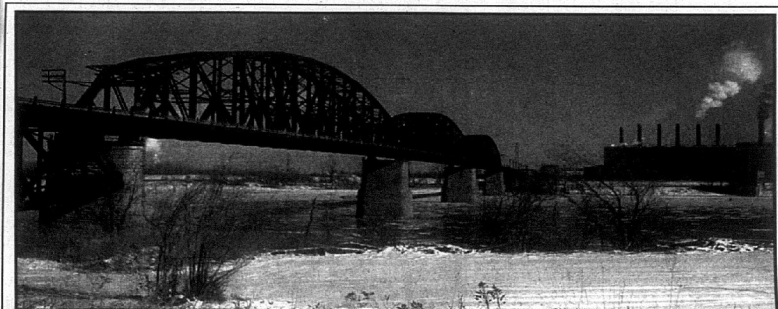
A lottery was conducted Wednesday morning in City Clerk Judy Whitaker's office to determine ballot placement for 15 candidates who filed nominating petitions at 9 a.m. Jan. 13, when the filing period began. Circuit Judge Phil Kardin drew the names from a basket.

Madison, Pontoon races, 3A

Affolter (7th Ward) are the only unopposed candidates, barring a write-in campaign. Earl Tucker of the 2400 block of Grand Avenue attempted to file petitions Tuesday afternoon to challenge Laub, but did not have the assessor certification documentation required

by a new state law. Whitaker refused to accept the petitions after obtaining a legal opinion from Township Attorney Bill Schooley. The candidates and the offices they are seeking, in order of their appearance on the ballot, are: MAYOR — Bowler, of the 2700 block of Center Street, a former alderman and former school board member; former police commissioner and former school board member Dewey

Melton, of the 2500 block of Westmoreland Drive; incumbent Ron Selph, of the 3200 block of Westchester Drive; and former school board member David Partney, of Donald Court. CITY CLERK — incumbent Whitaker, of the 3200 block of Kilarney Drive, will be challenged by Scott Wilson, of the 2500 block of Delmar Avenue. (See BALLOT, Page 3A)



(Staff photo by JOHN FRESE)

Despite its appearance, the McKinley Bridge is safe, experts say.

Bridge repaired — half way

By Michelle Duell
Staff writer

Driving west from Venice to St. Louis across the McKinley Bridge, the structure appears to be in mint condition. It's newly paved — until about half way. Then, there is black-top that barely covers part of the bridge's surface. There are pot holes and steel braces that show through the

bridge surface, making for a bumpy ride. Carlissa Ware of Venice, who occasionally drives across the bridge to her job on an assembly line in St. Louis, said that more needs to be done to repair the bridge. "I think they need to check on it with the trucks going through in the wintertime, and you do get holes in it," she said.

"She's right," said McKinley Bridge consultant Tom Fields, an engineer who monitors the structure for Venice. "There is still lots of work to be done on this physical structure." "No one thinks we ever do anything to repair the bridge, but we do," Venice Mayor Tyrone Echois said. At a city council meeting earlier (See BRIDGE, Page 7A)

Sticker plan lacks support

Council hesitant to eliminate annual 'wheel tax' fees

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

A proposal by Mayor Ron Selph and City Clerk Judy Whitaker to eliminate the vehicle sticker program in Granite City has been scrapped. The City Council put the brakes on the proposal Tuesday night after several aldermen expressed concerns about the amount of revenue that would be lost by eliminating the program. "I could use \$80,000 on my street, let alone throughout the city," 4th Ward Alderman Foster Frederick said during a Finance Committee meeting where the issue was discussed. Selph and Whitaker proposed eliminating the "wheel tax," which is \$5 per car and \$10 per truck. Senior citizens pay \$1. The city realized annual net revenue of about \$30,000 from the program after expenses. Both Selph and Whitaker said the program is inconvenient for residents and that the lost revenue could be offset by anticipated increases in other



Frederick



Crider

revenue sources. No property tax increase would be necessary, Selph said. The city's budget forecasts a \$143,000 surplus this year. "It would still be a \$63,000 surplus," Selph said. But aldermen attending the committee meeting were more cautious about the city's future financial condition. "We still haven't settled a contract with the street department," said Alderman Alan Crider. "I don't think we need to jump into this."

(See TAX, Page 7A)

McGinnis waives right to jury

Case pits ex-colleagues

GREENVILLE — Two Madison County attorneys who formerly worked in the same office are now at odds over the Kelly McGinnis murder case. McGinnis' attorney, Don W. Weber, filed motions Tuesday seeking to disqualify court-appointed prosecutor Keith Jensen because Jensen is employed by the father of Associate Circuit Judge Ann Callis-Rougey. Callis-Rougey spent months in hiding after McGinnis killed his ex-wife's former divorce attorney. As the judge in the divorce case, Callis-Rougey feared for her life. McGinnis admitted murdering Greenville City Attorney Thomas Meyer Aug. 12 and has called the court system "corrupt."

(See COLLEAGUES, Page 7A)

GREENVILLE — Kelly L. McGinnis, who says a corrupt court system pushed him to murder, is putting his fate in the hands of a judge. In a presentencing conference at Bond County Courthouse Tuesday morning, McGinnis waived his right to be sentenced by a jury. McGinnis has pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the Aug. 12 shooting death of Greenville City Attorney Thomas Meyer. His decision to waive jury sentencing means Circuit Judge John L. DeLaurenti will have the sole authority to pass sentence. "Will your decision be based on the evidence presented?" McGinnis asked DeLaurenti. "Absolutely," said the judge. "I haven't yet made a decision based on anything else, and I don't intend to start now." McGinnis' court-appointed attorney, Don W. Weber, also filed a motion seeking to bar consideration of the death penalty. The motion states that the prosecution asked for it in a "capricious" manner. DeLaurenti, for the second time during court proceedings, (See JURY, Page 8A)

In the Press-Record

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THURSDAY 38°
FRIDAY 37°
SATURDAY 36°
SUNDAY 39°

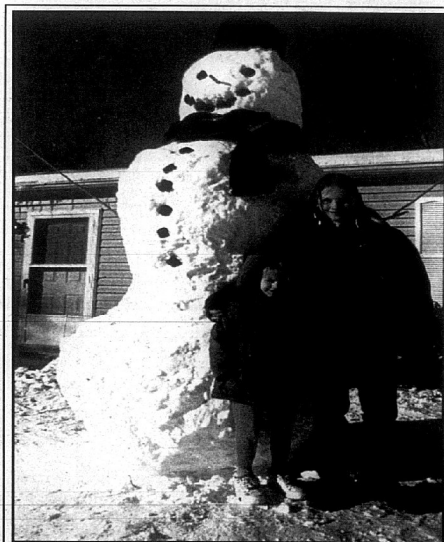
John Fuller, Meteorologist KSDN-NewsChannel 5

Salute

Air Force Airman Jason P. Maloney has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. During six weeks of training, Maloney studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations. He also earned credits toward an associate's degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Maloney is a 1996 graduate of Granite City High School. He is the son of Bob and Margaret Maloney of Granite City.



Jason P. Maloney



(Staff photo by JOHN FRESE)

Big guy — Sisters Jessica Robinson, 5, and Amanda Singleton, 12, are dwarfed by the nine-and-a-half-foot snowman they built last week in front of their home in Granite City. The hat and scarf are made from a blanket. More photos from the season's first major winter storm on Page 2A.

News in review

News in review provides a summary of some of the past week's stories. This column is designed for out-of-town readers who do not receive the Sunday and Wednesday Press-Record/Journals.

Dead woman identified

Authorities have identified a woman found dead along Interstate 270, two miles east of the Illinois state line, as a woman from north St. Louis County.

Susan Marie Keen, 37, was probably the victim of foul play, Madison County Coroner Dallas Burke said. Keen lived in Glasgow Village, an area of St. Louis County only a few miles from the I-270 bridge over the Mississippi River, authorities said.

Keen's body was discovered at 2:40 a.m. Friday, and she was pronounced dead at 4:10 a.m.

Children at risk on the rise

The number of children born to single teen-aged mothers who haven't finished high school is increasing.

According to Voices for Illinois Children's fifth annual Kids Count report, more than 10,000 Illinois children — or one out of every seven — were born in 1994 into families headed by a single, teen-aged mother who hadn't finished high school.

In Madison County 15 percent, or 203 children, were born to single teen-aged mothers who hadn't finished in 1994.

Hiring questioned

Madison County has no uniform procedures for hiring personnel, county officials said Wednesday.

And despite concerns raised by one County Board member about protocol, County Board Chairman Rudy Papa said he likes the current setup.

"The way the situation is now is fine with me," said Papa after a County Board meeting Wednesday morning.

During the meeting, board member Don Garrett, D-Madison, urged a review of the board's power structure.

He said individual board members have no say in most matters and that the chairman of the board and committee members are the only ones with real power.

Garrett referred to the hiring of Rudy Papa's brother, Joe Papa, as the new supervisor of the Special Sewer District.

Papa started on the job at the request of Sewer District Committee Chairman Don Rea, D-Granite City.

Crime, arrests up in Madison

Crime was on the rise in the city of Madison in 1996. But police also made more arrests and cleared more cases than in previous years, Police Chief Steve Skoklo said.

Of all incidents reported to the police department in 1996, 80 percent were cleared by some type of police action taken by the department, Skoklo said.

Bowler blasts missing audits

The city of Granite City has not had an external audit of its finances since 1992.

Mayoral candidate Paul Bowler said that the lack of an outside audit, in addition to violating state law, is bad business.

Mayor Ron Selph said the situation is the result of a financial department swamped by paperwork as a result of flooding in the last three years. He said the audit is currently being prepared by the department and should be completed by the end of February.

Cable rates to rise

Residents of Granite City and Madison will soon see an improvement in cable television signal reception during periods of bad weather. They will also see an increase in their cable bill effective Feb. 1.

Charter Communication is in the process of installing a fiber optic link which is expected to improve the signal. The fee increase is in the company's expanded basic service tier. Subscribers will pay about \$1.50 more per month for the service.

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Snow sculpture — The combination of snow and time off from school made for a large collection of snowmen going up last week throughout the area. Above, this sculpture came complete with a carrot for a nose and a colorful skirt. Below, Edward Wilkinson provides his own art as he takes a rest after hiking through the snow to Wilson Park.



Chicken/beverage dance planned

Eagles Lodge, 2558 Madison, Granite City, will sponsor a chicken and beverage dance from 7:30 - 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, to benefit Special Education field trips.

The DJ will be "Nate & B.C." Donation is \$10.00 per person. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Tom at 931-4691.

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Dog helps catch suspected thief

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

A Granite City police department K-9 officer is doing his part to take a bite out of crime.

The dog, "Sparky," apprehended an alleged shoplifter Saturday evening on the parking lot at Kmart, 3855 Nameoki Road, after the suspect allegedly sprayed pepper mace in the face of a security guard and bit the guard on the thigh and stomach.

When David L. Reeder, the suspect, refused to obey an order to quit struggling with the guard, Sparky really sank his teeth into his job — and the suspect — according to a police report.

Reeder suspect quickly quit struggling and was arrested. Reeder, a 30-year-old resident of the 2500 block of Madison Avenue, was charged with aggravated battery and retail theft, second offense. Bond was set at \$50,000.

Reeder picked up two movie cassettes, a remote control and several packages of batteries

in the electronics department at Kmart, according to a police report.

But he allegedly placed the items inside his coat and pants and walked out of the store without paying, the report states.

Reeder sprayed pepper spray at the security guard when confronted on the parking lot, the report states. He also allegedly bit the guard on the stomach and left thigh during the ensuing struggle, according to the report.

An officer on duty at the nearby Bingo Center responded to the scene and ordered Reeder to quit struggling with the guard.

When Reeder refused, the officer gave Sparky an order to apprehend the suspect. Sparky bit Reeder on the right arm and began to pull him away from the guard, the report states.

At the time of the arrest, Reeder was wanted on a felony warrant charging him with possession of a controlled substance.

Book review planned at library

The Granite City Public Library District will host a book review and discussion at the main library, 2001 Delmar Avenue, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6.

Financial consultant Bill Hatton will review "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Making Money on Wall Street," by Christy Heady.

The book begins with the basics of investing and discusses terminology, kinds of investments and how to start investing. It also explains how the stock and bond markets work and what a mutual fund is, as well as options and futures.

The author shows how to develop an investment strategy and how to build wealth. The book is written in an easy-to-read, easy-to-understand format.

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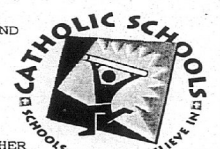
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(Staff photo by BOB SLATE)
Circuit Judge Phil Kardis, center, draws the name of Paul Bowler from a basket held by City Clerk Judy Whitaker, left, during the election lottery Wednesday morning in Whitaker's office. Bowler is on the right.

•Ballot

(Continued from Page 1A)

CITY TREASURER — incumbent Gail Valle, of the 3100 block of Fehling Road, will face a challenge from former Alderman Jim Miller of the 2600 block of Cleveland Boulevard, an employee of Union Electric Co. in St. Louis. As an alderman, Miller was a proponent of eliminating the treasurer's position.

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR — Alderman Bob Shipley of the 2400 block of Hodges Avenue and Dan McGuire of the 2600 block of State Street are seeking the township supervisor's post. Bernie Hagnauer, who was appointed to the

Tax assistance to be offered

Tax assistance for middle- and low-income taxpayers age 60 and older, administered through the AARP Foundation in cooperation with the IRS, will begin on Feb. 4 and end on April 15 at the following locations:

Moose Club — 19th and Adams — on Tuesdays.

Magna Bank — Nameoki and Jill — on Wednesdays.

Holy Family Catholic Church Community Center — 26th & Washington — on Thursdays.

Hours are from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at all locations. Bring last year's tax return, tax return packet supplied by the IRS, and all tax information for 1996.

position following the death of her husband, long-time township supervisor Nellie Hagnauer, is the only current officeholder in the area not seeking re-election.

ALDERMAN 2nd WARD — incumbent Craig Tarpo of the 2600 block of Madison Avenue; and Sam Ronney of the 2600 block of State Street.

ALDERMAN 3rd WARD — Marilyn Matsko of the 2200 block of Lee Avenue; incumbent Nick Petrillo of the 2200 block of Cleveland Boulevard; and John Kabbendjian of the 2300 block of Benton Street.

ALDERMAN 4th WARD — former Alderman Emerald Dawes of the 1600 block of Moro Avenue; Timothy Vaughn of the 3000 block of Century Drive; incumbent Foster Frederick of the 2400 block of Logan Avenue; and Larry Rudder of Briarwood Lane.

ALDERMAN 5th WARD — Jerry Jackson of the 2100 block of State Street; James Bailey Sr. of the 1700 block of Olive Street; Larry Blackwell of the 2700 block of Roosevelt Avenue; incumbent Eddie Asadorian of the 1600 block of Poplar Street; Michael Patton of the 2100 block of Delmar Avenue; and Vanessa Vargo of Park Towne Drive.

ALDERMAN 6th WARD (four years) — incumbent Alan Cridler of the 3100 block of Aubrey Avenue; and John Petish Jr. of the 3200 block of Carlson Avenue.

ALDERMAN 6th WARD (two years) — Sandy Shaw of the 1500 block of Rodger Avenue; incumbent Walter Milton Sr. of the 3200 block of Wabash Avenue; and Dick Mizell of Watertown Circle.

Party races in store for Madison, Pontoon

By Bob Slate
Staff writer

Opposing political factions will battle for power in Madison and Pontoon Beach on April 1. But incumbent officeholders in Chouteau and Nameoki townships will apparently have a free ride in the next election.

In Madison, where a mayor, clerk and four aldermen are to be elected, two political parties each filed a full slate of candidates. Current Madison Clerk William W. Weidner of the 1600 block of Third Street heads the New Progressive Party as its mayoral candidate. He will be opposed by Positive Leadership Party mayoral candidate and current 3rd Ward Alderman John Hamm III, a resident of the 1700 block of Fourth Street.

While both parties had filed petitions simultaneously at the opening of the filing period, the Positive Leadership Party withdrew petitions and filed again Tuesday — the last day to file.

The New Progressive Party slate includes former Alderman Richard R. George of the 1600 block of Sixth Street as a candidate for clerk; and aldermanic candidates Thomas E. Voloski of the 1600 block of Sixth Street (1st Ward); Norma L. Belloc of the 1000 block of Grand Avenue (2nd Ward); daughter of current Mayor John Belloc; school teacher Irene Hackett Orr of the 1600 block of Fourth Street (3rd Ward); and Beulah Williams of the 800 block of Franklin Street (4th Ward).

Positive Leadership Party candidates include former school board member Sharon Cass of the 1200 block of Alton Avenue for clerk; incumbent alderman Eleanor Arrior of the 1500 block of Third Street (1st Ward); Ron Graywacz of the 1100 block of Greenwood Street (2nd Ward); and Mike Vralche of the 1900 block of Harris Avenue (3rd Ward); and Kelvin Gardner of the 1500 block of Second Street (4th Ward).

In Pontoon Beach, where three trustees are to be elected, two parties have filed full slates of candidates seeking those positions.

One slate that includes incumbent trustees Bob Abel and Bob Vincent as well as former



Hamm **Weidner**
trustee and current Village Commissioner Lou Whitsell filed Jan. 13 under the People for Village Progress Party banner.

On Tuesday, incumbent trustee Mike Macek, along with Phil Witt and Scott Oney, filed as the People First Party.

In Nameoki Township, all eight incumbent officeholders filed as a single party — and have no opposition. Supervisor Ken Davis, Clerk Helen Hawkins, Road Commissioner Loren Madison, Assessor Carl Macios, and trustees Gene Briggs, Ed Patrick, Charlie Luehmann and Pete Novacek will all apparently be re-elected.

The Town Board recently reduced the township's general fund property tax levy by 16 percent.

Don Wilson's name will appear on the ballot along with the others as a candidate for collector. Nameoki Township does not fund the position. But state law requires a full slate of candidates to file party petitions.

The same is true in Chouteau Township, where all incumbents will run as an unopposed party.

Supervisor Pat Polley, Clerk Barbara Overton, Assessor David Clements, Road Commissioner Jim Franko and trustees Robert Lacrone, Dudley Luehmann, and Leroy Strick will apparently have no opposition.

Jim Hendrix is also on the ballot as an unfunded collector in Chouteau Township.

'Stand Down Day' is Saturday

Veterans offered help

By Nicole Vaughn
Staff writer

Area veterans and their families in need of financial, medical or other assistance may find help Saturday at the Collinsville American Legion. American Legion Post 955, 1022 Vandavia, will host the

Metro East Veterans Stand Down Day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The event will help veterans and their families with job and educational opportunities, temporary financial assistance, medical and dental exams, substance abuse and mental health counseling, and veteran

and Social Security benefits. Paperwork and identification will be needed to apply for some benefits. Veterans should bring their "DD 214" to the

Members of the Legion and its Auxiliary will serve food (breakfast, lunch and dinner), and free haircuts will be available for veterans.

Clothing in good condition will be available. Donations of clothing — preferably winter items — are needed for men, women and children. The groups also are asking for donations of personal care items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, shaving cream, razors, deodorant and feminine hygiene products.

Those donations should be taken to the Post home by Thursday.

The Tom Lakin Law Firm in Wood River has donated \$2,000 for the event.

The Stand Down is sponsored by the 22nd District American Legion. Gerald Murphree, 22nd District commander of Post 53 in East St. Louis, and Dorothy Hinson of the Venice-Madison Unit 307 are co-chairmen.

Transportation will be available. Dave Croft Motors and Cassens have provided vans, and the Madison County Transit District is providing drivers.

Veterans should contact their local American Legion post, Murphree at 874-0627 or Ken Lamoreaux at 344-7664 to arrange a ride. Madison County residents also can call the Madison County Veterans Assistance at 692-6200, Ext. 4554.

At least 200 participants are expected. Last year, 78 veterans were helped at the event, and about 30 others were assisted in the week following it.

For more information, call 874-0627, 344-7664 or 877-2118.

55-Alive Night class is offered

A "55-Alive" class is being offered at the Belleville Area College Granite City Campus, 4650 Maryville, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The fee is \$8.00 per person.

The class will be held on Feb. 6 and 7 in Room 345 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fee is \$8.00 per person.

The class size is limited; seniors must register by calling 931-7016 between 9 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

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BROADCAST STATIONS												

KMTV	(7)	Entertain	*** <i>"Money for Nothing" (1990)</i>	John Cusack	Night Stand (R)	Free Rescue	Living (R)	Walla's	Catholic Mass
KTVI	(4)	Puller/gest	Beach Patrol (R)	High Tide	News (R)	News (R)	A.M. Arts	Paul Prodig	St Louis
KX 5	(3)	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
KNLN	(3)	News/Info	Saturday Night Sing	2 Music (on News)	Worship	Lightweights	Take/Stop	Worship	Message
KNLN	(4)	Deadly/In	In Concert	*** <i>"Love Kills" (1991)</i>	Suspense/Virginia Madams	Beverly Hills	90210 (R)	Church	Dinosaur/Dinosaur
KETC	(1)	Charlie Rose	In Stereo	Man from U.A.C.L.E.	J.G. L.A.	Man From U.A.C.L.E.	Travels	Adventures	National Geographic
KTSD	(1)	Wayback	in Stereo	Wayback in Stereo	Wayback in Stereo	The Series	Crucial	Wayback	Deadly
CABLE STATIONS									
SC	(9)	Scoreboard	Scoreboard	Central (R)	Scoreboard	Central (R)	Scoreboard	Central (R)	Scoreboard
NICK	(9)	Larry King	Live	News	News	News	News	News	News
SN	(3)	Phyllis	Life and Death	Hoppy D	Trail Bred (R)	Newhart	Rh	Howard	Chapman
UNT	(2)	(11:00)	"Black Sunday"	*** <i>"Semi-Tough" (1977)</i>	Comedy/Bud Reynolds	Kung Fu	Our Gang	Danger	Ridgely
TSN	(9)	"Mosquito"	"A Nightingale on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge"	Facts-Like	Facts-Like	Facts-Like	Chet	Messace	Muddy Mag
USA	(1)	Road to the	USA	USA	USA	USA	USA	USA	USA
DISC	(4)	Justice Files	"Informant"	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog
TGS	13	(11:00)	"Who's the Stripper?" (1978)	Beaver	Laverne	Gomer Pyle	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith
WGN	(1)	SPN	SPN	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local	Local
WCHN	(2)	Night Stand	Fishing	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Fame: "School is Out"	Fame: "A Place to Belong"	Messace	Key-Dead
WGSL	10	Doll Outfit	Doll Outfit	Beat the Clock	Beat the Clock	Beat the Clock	Jewelry	Jewelry	News-Kids
ATC	28	(12:30)	*** <i>"The Longest Day" (1962)</i>	John Wayne	G	*** <i>"99 Only Money" (1952)</i>	*** <i>"Payton Place" (1957)</i>	Orano	Launa
WFSB	(1)	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
TV	98	ReRun	ReRun	Dreamtime (in Stereo)	Dreamtime (in Stereo)	Dreamtime (in Stereo)	Dreamtime (in Stereo)	Dreamtime (in Stereo)	Dreamtime (in Stereo)
LIFE	30	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog
HN	33	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog
FAM	39	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog
FAM	39	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog	Paid Prog
A&E	31	To Be Annouced	To Be Annouced	*** <i>"Gang Ho!" (1971)</i>	Adventures/Randolph Scott	Adventures/Randolph Scott	Adventures/Randolph Scott	Adventures/Randolph Scott	Adventures/Randolph Scott
SCI FI	95	(12:30)	*** <i>"Cool World" (1992)</i>	Robotech: The Series	Night Stalker (R)	Darkside	*** <i>"One Out of Four" (1974)</i>	Diana Eric	Proton
SCI FI	95	(12:30)	*** <i>"Cool World" (1992)</i>	Robotech: The Series	Night Stalker (R)	Darkside	*** <i>"One Out of Four" (1974)</i>	Diana Eric	Proton
PREMIUM STATIONS									
HBO	14	Natural Enemy (1997)	Drama/NR	Real Sea (in 16:9)	*** <i>"Final Analysis" (1928)</i>	Richard Gere	R	*** <i>"War of the Buttons" (1949)</i>	16:9
DISC	16	"Swaghe"	*** <i>"Daredevil" (1994)</i>	Drama/R	*** <i>"Indiana Summer" (1995)</i>	Alice Ayden	R	*** <i>"My People" (1995)</i>	Treats
TV	17	Payton	Payton	Payton	Payton	Payton	Payton	Payton	Payton
SHOW	16	(12:30)	*** <i>"Can't Buy Me Love" (1967)</i>	"I Got a Crush"	*** <i>"Cinderella" (1950)</i>	G	Mickey	C. Brown	Duxette
CH	16	(12:30)	*** <i>"Can't Buy Me Love" (1967)</i>	"I Got a Crush"	*** <i>"Cinderella" (1950)</i>	G	Mickey	C. Brown	Duxette

SUNDAY MORNING JANUARY 26, 1997

[illegible]

SUNDAY AFTERNOON JANUARY 26, 1997

[illegible]

SUNDAY EVENING JANUARY 26, 1997

[illegible]

Obituaries

Melba Tarpoiff

Melba M. (Theis) Tarpoiff, 76, of Granite City died at 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, 1997, suddenly at her residence. She was born April 27, 1921, in Granite City.

Mrs. Tarpoiff was a member of St. Peter Evangelical United Church of Christ and the Evening Guild at St. Peter's.

Survivors include two sons, Kyle and Thomas Tarpoiff, both of Granite City; one daughter, Miss Dickinson of Granite City; one sister, Mildred Jung of Granite City; and two grandsons.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jon T. Tarpoiff, who died in 1983; and her parents, Charles H. and Orlinda (Ruwiech) Theis.

Visitation will be at Davis Funeral Home, 21st and Cleveland, from 5 to 9 p.m. today, Thursday, and from 2 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24. Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at St. Peter Evangelical United Church of Christ, 2103 Cleveland, Granite City, with the Rev. Tom Wise officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon.

Memorials are suggested to St. Peter Evangelical United Church of Christ or the Jon Tarpoiff Scholarship Fund, University of Missouri at Columbia.

Andrew Gerkin

Andrew A. Gerkin, 66, of Granite City died at 4:44 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, 1997, at DaPaul Hospital in Bridgeport, Mo. He was born March 25, 1930, in Granite City.

Mr. Gerkin retired in 1992 from Granite City Steel after 41 years as a crane operator. A veteran of the Navy and Army Reserves, he was a member of the American Legion.

Survivors include his wife, Mildred R. (Cave) Gerkin, whom he married June 25, 1955; two daughters, Christine and Nancy Gerkin, both of Granite City; one son, Mark Gerkin of Granite City; two sisters, Mable Poland of Cahokia, Mary Gerkin and Thea Bruch both of Granite City; and Mildred Curtis of Detroit, Mich., his granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Emil and Amelia (Horn) Gerkin; and three sisters, Sophie Sedwies, Grace Gerkin and Helen Klup.

Visitation will be from 5.8 p.m. today, Thursday, at Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City. Services are scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Friday,

Jan. 24, at Irwin's Maryville Road Chapel with the Rev. Robert Samuel officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon.

Pearl Vincent

Pearl M. Vincent, 64, of Granite City died at 5:15 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, 1997, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, following a two-month illness. She was born Dec. 18, 1932, in Granite City and had been a life-long resident.

Mrs. Vincent was a homemaker, a member of the Granite City Four-square Church, and a member of the Granite City Four-square Church.

Survivors include five daughters, Donna Martin of Logan, Ohio, Margie DeLeon of San Antonio, Texas, Cathy Hubbard and Sandy Ann both of Lima, Ohio, and Rebecca Hubbard of Ft. Wayne, Ind.; four sons, Gary Hubbard of Butler, Ind., and Jim, Michael and John Hubbard all of Lima, Ohio; five sisters, Mary Dickerson of Lima, Ohio, Shirley Pollard and Thelma Turner all of Granite City; and a brother, Edward of Highland; 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harrison and Elizabeth (Gibson) Vincent; one brother, James Vincent; and two sisters, Emma Vincent and Viola Vincent.

Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 23, at Werner Chapel, 3859 Lake Drive, Granite City, with the Rev. Eddie Linhart officiating. Burial will be in Valley View Cemetery, Edwardsville.

Memorials are suggested to the Diabetes Foundation.

Julia Marczak

Julia (Kondrich) Marczak, 83, of Granite City died at 9:50 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at her residence. She was born Feb. 23, 1913, in Danzig, Mo., and a lifetime resident of Granite City.

Mrs. Marczak was a homemaker, a member of the Catholic faith, and a member of the Catholic faith.

Survivors include three sons, Shirley Pollard and Thelma Turner all of Granite City; and a brother, Edward of Highland; 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harrison and Elizabeth (Gibson) Vincent; one brother, James Vincent; and two sisters, Emma Vincent and Viola Vincent.

Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 23, at Werner Chapel, 3859 Lake Drive, Granite City, with the Rev. Eddie Linhart officiating. Burial will be in Valley View Cemetery, Edwardsville.

Memorials are suggested to the Diabetes Foundation.

Bridge

(Continued from Page 1A)

this month. Echols signed a requisition for \$46,082 for repairs to the bridge. State and Madison funds help pay for its upkeep, he said.

Yet drivers question the safety of the bridge, and some of them go out of their way to avoid it because of safety concerns. And a decision between Illinois and Missouri is pending on a new span across the Mississippi River has led to questions about the future of the bridge.

Fields said Venice, which owns the bridge and collects tolls from drivers who cross it,

will "probably put less than \$1 million into the facility" for repairs this year.

"Thirty million dollars is needed to bring the bridge up to par," he said, adding that Venice has spent "99 million in a span of 20 months" on the bridge.

Despite its appearance and lack of complete upgrading, though, the bridge is safe, officials say.

Engineers inspect the bridge twice a year to ensure safety, Fields said.

The mile-long bridge, built in 1910 by the Illinois Terminal Railroad, was built for safety.

Jury

(Continued from Page 1A)

stressed he had been an acquaintance of the victim. McGinnis again declined his right to ask for a different judge.

DeLaurenti, 63, of Pocahontas, has been the Third Judicial Circuit Court's resident Bond County circuit judge since January 1973. He is formerly of Alton.

McGinnis is apparently upset with the slowness of the proceedings.

"He wants this over with," Weber said. "He thinks this whole thing is too hard on his family and on Mr. Meyer's

family."

Weber said McGinnis is remorseful for his crime, has tried to apologize to Meyer's family and wants the least harsh sentence allowable, 20 years.

Meyer's widow, Barbara Meyer, said she is selling off bits and pieces "as her husband's former law practice because state law forbids selling the practice as a whole. Meyer's office already has a new tenant."

Weber also filed a motion Friday seeking to disqualify prosecutor Keith Jensen from the case.

A hearing on the motions has been set for 10 a.m. Friday,

both of Granite City and John Marczak of Bridgeport, Mich.; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harrison and Elizabeth (Gibson) Vincent; one brother, James Vincent; and two sisters, Emma Vincent and Viola Vincent.

Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 23, at Werner Chapel, 3859 Lake Drive, Granite City, with the Rev. Tom Wise officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon.

Robert Chapman

Robert D. Chapman, 69, of Fairview Heights died Monday, Jan. 20, 1997, at Castlehaven Rehab and Nursing Center in Swansea. He was a longtime Fairview Heights resident.

Mr. Chapman was employed by Swift and Co. for more than 40 years as a member and a deacon at the First Baptist Church in Fairview Heights; and member of St. Clair Lodge 1304, A.F. & A.M., Almad Shrine and Scottish Rite Bodies.

Survivors include his wife, Maxine Chapman of Swansea; three sons, James, John and Robert; two daughters, Pamela A. Tyler of Granite City and Nancy C. Crocker of Troy, Sarah Bouse of Shawnee, Mo., and Beverly Gravot of DuQuoin, and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Curtis and Larnie (Tatum) Chapman.

Services are scheduled for 1 p.m. today, Thursday, at Lake View Funeral Home, Fairview Heights, with the Rev. Charley Westbrook officiating. Burial will be in Lake View Memorial Gardens.

Memorials are suggested to First Baptist Church of Fairview Heights Building Fund.

Arlintha Bamber

Arlintha M. (Young) Bamber, 80, of Maryville, formerly of Granite City, died Sunday, Jan. 20, 1997, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, Mo., after being hospitalized for 11 days.

Mrs. Bamber was born Nov. 19, 1916, in Granite City, Mo., and lived here prior to moving to Maryville 63 years ago.

A homemaker, she was a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in St. Louis.

Survivors include three sons, Shirley Pollard and Thelma Turner all of Granite City; and a brother, Edward of Highland; 20 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harrison and Elizabeth (Gibson) Vincent; one brother, James Vincent; and two sisters, Emma Vincent and Viola Vincent.

Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 23, at Werner Chapel, 3859 Lake Drive, Granite City, with the Rev. Eddie Linhart officiating. Burial will be in Valley View Cemetery, Edwardsville.

Memorials are suggested to the Diabetes Foundation.

At that time, engineers were unsure of the soundness of steel used to construct it, so they reinforced it with double construction. Ralph Modjeski, one of the 10 most renowned engineers in the country, designed it.

"They built these things with a solid steel and iron," Fields said. "A bridge like this would not be built in 1997. It was built as a railroad bridge and they stoutly built it."

The railroad used the bridge to carry freight to and from St. Louis. Cars also used the bridge, and about 20 years after it was built, cars frequently traveled the bridge.

In 1958, the railroad sold the bridge to Venice, which wanted it because tolls were considered a plus for the city's coffers. In addition, it meant the city would determine the condition of the bridge.

Venice issued bonds worth \$22 million to pay for it. The tolls were paying off the debt, currently \$4.8 million, and the city finances its upkeep.

This year, Fields said, the city expects to collect \$2 million in tolls from drivers who number about 15,000 a day.

Despite rumors about the bridge's future, now that Missouri and Illinois have actually selected a site between the McKinley Bridge and the King of David, the new one, the McKinley will remain.

The two states will have to pay \$500 million for the new bridge and might have no other way to determine the tolls through tolls.

If that happens, the McKinley Bridge will remain a toll bridge, and the other bridges that cross the Mississippi River will become toll bridges, too, Fields said.

If the states choose another site for the project, the McKinley Bridge won't be able to compete as a toll bridge. It will remain standing, Fields said.

Funeral summary

CHUROVICH, Johanna M. (Makler), 100, of Granite City died at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, 1997, at Anderson Hospital in Maryville, where she had been a patient for one day.

Services were held Saturday, Jan. 18, at Davis Funeral Home, 21st and Cleveland, Granite City, with the Rev. Walter Martinez officiating. Burial was in St. John Cemetery, Granite City.

Memorials are suggested to Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, St. Louis.

RIVES, Bill R., 77, of Columbia, formerly of Houston, died Friday, Jan. 17, 1997, at Monroe County Nursing Home in Waterloo.

Services were held Monday, Jan. 20, at Braun Funeral Home, 3701 Falling Springs Road, Cahokia, with the Rev. Tim Ozment officiating. Burial was in Valhalla Cemetery, Belleville.

THEBEAU, Cornelia (Pileic), 83, of Granite City died at 9:57 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, 1997, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

Services were held Monday,

Jan. 20, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 26th and Washington, Granite City, with the Rev. Bill Fisherscher officiating. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Edwardsville.

Arrangements were handled by Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City.

HANSON, Joseph L., 69, of Granite City died Thursday, Jan. 16, 1997, at his residence.

Services were held Monday, Jan. 20, at Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City, with the Rev. Carrie Culleen officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon.

Memorials are suggested to Central Christian Church Memorial Fund or the Alzheimer's Association.

Services were held Monday,

Jan. 20, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 26th and Washington, Granite City, with the Rev. Bill Fisherscher officiating. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Edwardsville.

Arrangements were handled by Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City.

HANSON, Joseph L., 69, of Granite City died Thursday, Jan. 16, 1997, at his residence.

Services were held Monday, Jan. 20, at Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City, with the Rev. Carrie Culleen officiating. Burial was in Sunset Hill Memorial Estates in Glen Carbon.

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Memorials are suggested to Central Christian Church Memorial Fund or the Alzheimer's Association.

Services were held Monday,

Jan. 20, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 26th and Washington, Granite City, with the Rev. Bill Fisherscher officiating. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Edwardsville.

Arrangements were handled by Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville Road, Granite City.

HANSON, Joseph L., 69, of Granite City died Thursday, Jan. 16, 1997, at his residence.

Orville Laymon

Orville Laymon, 78, of Granite City died Jan. 15, 1997, at Christian North-West Hospital, Mo. He was born Nov. 30, 1918, in Elizabeth, Ark.

Mr. Laymon retired from American Can Co. in St. Louis after 32 years of service. A veteran of World War II, he served in the European Theater and received the Purple Heart. He was a member of Pontoon Beach Baptist Church and the Highland Sportsman's Club.

Survivors include his wife, Lessie (Griggs) Laymon, whom he married March 13, 1944, in St. Louis; a daughter, Betty Kohlbrecht of Highland; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Otis and Lymay Laymon; and a brother, Paul Laymon.

Services were held Saturday, Jan. 18, at Howard Funeral Home in St. Louis, Ark. Burial was in Dolt Wayland Arboretum Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the American Heart Association.

Frances Evelyn Davis, 65, of Salem died at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1997, at Twin Willow Nursing Center in Salem after a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Davis was born Jan. 27, 1931, in Granite City and attended Venice Graded School.

Survivors include her daughter, Sheila M. Davis of Alton; two brothers, John W. Davis of Cahokia and Thomas A. Davis of San Francisco; and one sister, Alberta A. Taylor of Madison.

Memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

John Gibson

John D. Gibson, 44, of Eagle Park died Sunday, Jan. 19, 1997, at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. He was a resident of Granite City.

Survivors include one son, Ricardo Graham of East St. Louis; two daughters, Kimberly Graham of East St. Louis and Felicia Green of Belleville; and a brother, John M. Gibson both of Madison; and three sisters, Dorothy Mae Howard of Venice, Mo., and Jean and Mary Gibson both of Madison.

Services are scheduled for 11 a.m. today, Thursday, Jan. 23, at Officer Edna's Home, 1111 Missouri Ave., East St. Louis, with the Rev. Elder Thomas McMillan officiating. Burial will be in Sunset Gardens of Memory Cemetery, Stoney Township.

Memorials are suggested to the American Cancer Society.

Webster's motion was "totally without merit," Jensen said, adding that his employment with Callis-Rongey's father, Lance Callis, was not a factor.

Jensen is a former assistant state's attorney who worked under Webster, a former state's attorney now in private practice. Jensen acted as Callis, Papa, Jensen, Jackstadt and Halloran, a Granite City law firm. Lance Callis is lead partner in the firm.

"The only personal interest I have in the McGinnis case is making sure the murderer is punished," Jensen said.

According to Webster's motions, "The presence of Keith Jensen as a public prosecutor in this cause creates not only an appearance of impropriety, but also an actual, prejudicial impropriety."

Webster's motions are designed to disqualify Jensen and to bar consideration of the death penalty.

The court document states that Jensen is unnecessary in the case because lead prosecutor John Knight, Bond County state's attorney, can handle it by himself.

Webster's motions also state that Jensen has violated several attorney's disciplinary rules in accepting the appointment and has violated such rules in the past.

Jensen said he could not comment on the specific allegations but that a response would be filed with the court.

Jensen was appointed to the McGinnis case because he represents the State Attorney General's Office as part-time director of the Violent Crime Strike Force.

— From The Telegraph

Alderman Craig Tarpoiff said the city has other pending matters — such as contaminated soil at its main fire station — that could be more expensive.

"In the past, the city has been in the red. Now, due to sales tax revenue, we're in better shape," Tarpoiff said. "But I for one think it is best to wait and see."

Alderman Cassius Skubish said he had no problem with discontinuing the sticker program "as long as the city is in the black."

Finance Committee Chairman Walter Milton said he would also support elimination of the program.

"I think that the costs to administer the program are a lot more than the revenue it generates," Milton said.

But Frederick said the sticker program is a fair way to generate revenue for street maintenance.

"I just think it would be another free ride and there's too many free rides already in this city. Everybody should pay their fair share and I can't think of anything fairer than a sticker," Frederick said.

Alderman Bob Page said ending the program would be a "good gesture."

"I think it would be good for the citizens. I don't think \$5 will do it, but I think it's a good gesture," Page said.

Everybody should express support of the proposal, it was not raised on the council floor.

Solph said he did not take the defeat personally.

"At least we got them to discuss it. That's what committee meetings are for," Solph said.

Area cities without a vehicle tax include Alton, Belleville, Collinsville, Fairview Heights, Wood River, Cahokia, East Alton and O'Fallon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Frances M. Davis; and two sisters, Ethel Dunaway and Verna Mae Cane.

Services were held Thursday, Jan. 16, at Rinkin Funeral Home with the Rev. Robert Tarpoiff officiating. Burial was in East Lawn Cemetery in Salem.

K. Rupcinski

Katheryne (Stemler) Rupcinski, 78, of Mena, Ark., died Tuesday, Jan. 21, 1997, at St. Edwards Medical Center. She was born Oct. 4, 1918, in Granite City.

Mrs. Rupcinski was a resident of Sullivan, Mo., prior to moving to Mena, Ark., five years ago. She was employed as a seamstress.

Survivors include one daughter, Susan Nolan of Mena, Ark.; one son, Henry Rupcinski of Granite City; three sisters, Peggy Foster of Winfield, Mo., Violet Bader of Glen Carbon and Marie VanArkle of Sullivan, Mo.; and seven grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Rupcinski; her parents, Edward and Hazel (Winkelmeyer) Stemler; and two brothers, Edward and Freddy Stemler.

Services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 24, at Corinth Church of God in Mena, Ark., with the Rev. Charles Williams officiating. Burial will be in Concord Cemetery.

Donald Treaster

Donald E. Treaster, 78, of Granite City died Wednesday, Jan. 22, 1997. Arrangements are pending at Irwin Chapel, 3960 Maryville, Granite City.

Colleagues

(Continued from Page 1A)

Webster's motion was "totally without merit," Jensen said, adding that his employment with Callis-Rongey's father, Lance Callis

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THE LAW AND YOU
 By RICK REED
 Attorney At Law

Recently a case was decided on appeal in Illinois involving injuries sustained by a driver in an automobile accident. The amount of money recovered by a plaintiff in a case such as this may be related to the actions taken by the injured party following the accident.

In this case, the plaintiff was returning home from a shopping trip. She noticed that the traffic ahead of her was stopped, so she also pulled to a stop, and a few moments later she was rear-ended by another vehicle. Normally with a rear-end collision resulting in injuries, the plaintiff would be entitled to recover damages. However, the injured plaintiff arguably made several mistakes following this accident.

After the collision, the plaintiff left her car and came over to the defendant to inquire if she was injured. At the time, the plaintiff told the driver who rear-ended her vehicle that she was not hurt. She made a similar statement to the police officer at the scene, and he put this information in his report. The plaintiff's neck and back began to hurt the day after the accident. In a case such as this, a party should never make a statement regarding injuries

at the accident scene, since physical problems may not arise until later.

Further, the injured plaintiff did not seek medical treatment until one week after the accident, even though she was hurt. In many cases, an insurance company attorney will try to argue to a jury that the plaintiff must not have been seriously hurt the day of the accident. This is what happened in this case, and it ultimately hurt the plaintiff's case.

The injured plaintiff went to an internist, a chiropractor and an acupuncturist in an effort to relieve the effects of her injury. However, she discontinued treatments to visit her son in Arizona. She later resumed treatments when she returned to Illinois. But the several week gap in treatment allowed the defendant's attorney to argue that if the plaintiff was truly injured, she would not leave Illinois and interrupt her treatment.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the jury found in the defendant's favor. This case was argued on appeal, and thus an injured driver receiving nothing in this case.

Cahokia 1408 Camp Jackson 332-0070
Granite City 3723 Nameoki Rd. 876-0343
St. Louis 4601 State St. 398-7048
Belleville 6454 West Main • 398-7027

Vest sues to get license back

An Alton doctor who is appealing a prior fraud conviction has started a court battle to recover his state medical license.

Dr. Thomas Bruce Vest has filed a lawsuit in Madison County Circuit Court against the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation and its director, Nikki Zollar. The state regulatory agency on Dec. 13 revoked Vest's medical license for six years over a 1995 fraud conviction in federal court.

Vest's attorney, Don Weber, claimed in the lawsuit filed Jan. 16 that the revocation of the doctor's license "is erroneous, illegal and void."

"It's a political move by the state to take my medical license. They've been out to get me for years," said Vest, who promised a court fight against the state agency.

Vest is waiting for a decision from the Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago on his appeal of a 1995 conviction on mail fraud in U.S. District Court in East St. Louis.

Vest was accused of fraudulently billing Medicare and private insurance companies for unnecessary tests at his Doctors Clinic at 4325 Alby St., Alton.

A federal judge in October 1995 ordered Vest to serve 85 percent, or 20 months, of a two-year prison sentence and three years of supervised release after the term.

The judge ruled that Vest could supervise his Doctors Clinic in Alton but could not practice medicine during his appeal of the conviction.

"It's wrong for the state to take my license since the appeal of my case has not even been completed," Vest said.

The state regulatory agency also cited a case of alleged negligence over a heart stress test administered by Vest to a patient in 1988.

But Weber said that famous cardiac surgeon Dr. Robert Jones of Duke University Medical Center claimed that Vest was correct in administering the test. "Dr. Jones designed the test," Weber said.

There was a case in the 5th District Appellate Court in which the court ruled that a license could not be revoked during a court appeal process.

"Currently the criminal case is pending on appeal and the revocation of plaintiff's license on account of that conviction is improper," Weber claimed in the lawsuit.

Weber wants a circuit judge to reverse the state's decision to revoke the license and reinstate Vest "as a medical doctor in good standing."

"I think a judge will reverse the state's decision," Weber said.

In December 1995, Vest won a major legal victory to get Medicare patients. Federal administrative law judge Mimi Leachy issued an order setting aside Vest's five-year exclusion from Medicare, a program that provides health care for people 65 and older.

— From The Telegraph

Roever brings crusade here for three nights

Nationally-known speaker Dave Roever is coming to Granite City for a three-night crusade.

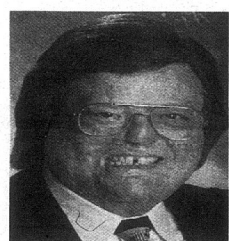
The crusade is sponsored by area churches and is planned for Jan. 26-28 at the Granite City High School gymnasium.

Roever joined the Navy during the Vietnam War and served as a riverboat gunner in the elite Brown Water Black Berets. Eight months into his duty in Vietnam, Roever was burned beyond recognition when a phosphorus grenade he was poised to throw exploded in his hand. The ordeal left him hospitalized for 14 months; he underwent 15 major surgeries.

Roever's survival and life have been called miraculous.

Roever has utilized a humorous style to become one of the country's most sought-after public speakers. His services are in demand for corporations in a variety of settings, such as public schools at the secondary level, military installations, youth conventions, business conventions, men's conferences and community functions. He is also a frequent guest on television talk shows, as well as host of his own television program.

Roever's message is one of hope. Using his war



Dave Roever

experiences of loneliness, peer pressure, disfigurement and pain, and his experiences in wholesome relationships with his parents, wife and children, Roever offers solutions to problems such as drug and alcohol abuse, drinking and driving, teen pregnancy, suicide and low self esteem.

He has spoken face-to-face with nearly six million students in public schools since 1976.

The crusade services are planned for 7 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. The public is welcome.

Tim Bach at City Temple on Sunday

Tim Bach of Fort Worth, Texas, will be singing and preaching in the morning worship service at City Temple Assembly of God, Sunday, Jan. 26, at 10:45 a.m.

Tim was born in Detroit. Growing up was tough as he experienced the death of his father and the suicide of his grandfather.

Tim's parents divorced and he was raised by his mother. Out of a heart and rebellion, Tim began drinking and experimenting with drugs. He finally came to the end of himself when he remembered the words of his father, "If you play, you pay."

Today Tim is a dynamic communicator to the youth of America. His use of humor will keep you laughing while you cry.

His story and comedy are a "must have" for everyone. His topics are current, relevant and straightforward.

Tim Bach is an associate minister with the Dave Roever Evangelistic Association and is in town for the Dave Roever Crusade at Granite City High School, Jan. 26-28.

Bach

Sports

B



Art Voellinger

Senior PGA winnings add up for Conner

If you really want to have fun at the start of a year, make a list of sports predictions. Then, at the end of the year, take a look at your list and see how successful you were.

I've made my list for 1997, parts of which I'll pass along in future weeks, but the prediction I felt best about in '96 was one I devoted a column to — that former Belleville resident Frank Conner would be reborn as a golfer on the Senior PGA Tour.

Frank turned 51 on Jan. 11, but in '96, his first year as a Senior, he earned \$561,465 and finished in 20th place with six top 10 finishes, including three ties for fifth and had a scoring average of 71.34 for 35 events.

Not bad for someone whose interests were devoted to tennis, first at Belleville West and later at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where he honed his skills well enough to reach the U.S. Open.

After turning to golf in his 20s, Conner turned pro in 1972 and joined the PGA Tour in 1975. While he gained recognition as one of only two men ever to play in the U.S. Open in both golf and tennis (the late Ellsworth Vines was the other), Frank had \$743,253 in career earnings on the PGA Tour and \$224,854 on the Nike Tour, where he played intermittently from 1990 through '96.

His best PGA Tour year was 1981, when he earned \$85,009 and placed 51st on the official money list. A year later he won the King Hassan Open in Morocco. His largest career PGA paycheck was \$36,000, when he won the '88 Deposit Guaranty Classic.

He also has four second-place finishes on the PGA Tour, but it was last year on the Senior Tour where he established himself in a fashion similar to the rise of Centralia's Tom Wargo in '93 — and in a fashion most pleasing to a prognosticator.

10TH HOLE: Conner's winnings on the Senior Tour types interest in Belleville native Jay Haas, who turned 43 on Dec. 2 and is seven years from the seniors, but continues to rank with the best of all pro golfers.

In '96, Jay was 36th in earnings with \$229,019 to raise his career figure to \$5.95 million since turning pro in '76. In 27 events last year, he tied for first in the Shark Shootout, had six top 10 finishes and a scoring average of 70.40.

Like Conner, who was blessed with birdies — 368 for 16th among the seniors, Haas recorded 364 birdies in '96. Greenville (S.C.) resident Jay was 21st in greens in regulation (69.0) and averaged 263.6 yards off the tee.

Wargo finished 15th in Senior earnings with \$695,705 to raise his career figure to \$3.1 million. In 35 events in '96, Tom had 10 top 10 finishes, including a third and three seconds while averaging 71.48 and placing 24th in birdies with 344.

FOOTNOTE: Regarding the '97 Super Bowl, one can only wonder how much of a factor punter Craig Henrich will be for Green Bay. A graduate of Alton Marquette and the University of Notre Dame, Craig often surpassed the 50-yard mark with his punts this season and also performed most ably with kickoffs.

Adept at getting punts to settle within the 20-yard line (the finished third in the NFC), Henrich, 25, of the Belleville Post-News Herald, is a New Orleans Superdome much more appealing than Green Bay's conditions.

EXTRA INNINGS: Baseball season never ends, especially in the form of fundraisers. Of interest to this American Legion fan is a Trivia Night offered by the Belleville Post-News Herald 50 junior and senior programs 7:30 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Freedom Farm off Freeburg Road.

The cost is \$7.50 per person with groups of 10 available. More info on the event is featuring Kevin Carbery, can be obtained by phoning Don Wallis at 997-0257.



Jan Shanafelt drives through traffic as Collinsville's Emily Hester (11) looks on.

Guffey paces Warriors by Whitfield

The Granite City hockey team finally picked up another victory in the Mid-States Club Hockey Association on Monday night, skating past visiting Whitfield 5-3.

With a blend of offensive pop and defensive pressure too often absent this season, the Warriors never allowed Whitfield to get into its game.

Mikal Guffey continued his consistent scoring by sending a pair of pucks past the Whitfield goalie, David Miskelley. Bob Pritchard and Bryan Loftus also scored for the hosts.

Whitfield got a goal from Jim Schulman and two from Preston Amos.

The Warriors improved to 8-2 with the win, while Whitfield dropped to 3-15-1. Granite City's next game is 9:30 p.m. Saturday against Hazelwood Central at the North County Rink.

The Warriors will return home Monday to face DeSmet.

Long legacy of champs rivals neighbors to north

A friend of mine among the Illinois sportswriting fraternity is curious as to why I chose to take a job covering high school sports for Granite City, Madison, Venice, East St. Louis and Lincoln.

"Chicago is the city of champions," he told me. "If you'd have let me know you were making the move into sports-writing, I could have found you something up here."

I have to give my friend some credit. Most Chicago sportswriters don't actually realize that anything even exists south of 147th Street or west of La Grange. My friend at least knows better. But not much. He knows that something is really "out there."

StUE standouts named to all-GLVC team

By Brian Bretsch Staff writer

A group of athletes from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville proved they could excel at their particular sport as well as in the classroom last fall.

A total of 29 student-athletes from SIUE were named this week to the 1996 all-Great Lakes Valley Conference Academic team.

The criteria for the all-academic team judges student-athletes who are important reserves or starters. First-year students or transfers must have a 3.2 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Returning students must have a 3.0 GPA.

The men's soccer team and women's volleyball team had the most selections. Each sport



Granite City's Bob Pritchard (left) battles for possession. Pritchard had a goal in the Warriors' 5-3 win over Whitfield on Monday.

beyond the limits of the Windy City; he's just not sure what it is.

Then he added, "The least you could have done was gone to a bastion of high school sports success like (dare I reveal it) Collinsville."

(I promise that's the last time I'll use the C-word in this column.)

I'll admit that my realm of sports coverage pales by comparison to as expansive an area as Chicago. After all, the teams I cover are within a radius of only 2 1/2 miles as the crow flies. And if they did, they'd still be stuck in a holding pattern over O'Hare.

I lived in metro Chicago for 10 years. It's a great city. And I'll still take a Geno's East pizza over any I've eaten anywhere else. But their arrogance when it comes to high school sports is almost intolerable.

My friend is not to blame. He's a victim. He's never lived anywhere else. Living in Chi-

GCHS girls miss mark in loss to Flyerettes

By Patrick C. Heston Staff writer

Fact: If the Lady Warriors had hit 30 percent of their field goals Tuesday night in East St. Louis, they would have beaten the host Flyerettes. Fact: They didn't.

There was no cure for the incredible cold spell that afflicted John Moad's team and the result was a tough-to-swallow 53-49 loss that could have gone — and, probably, should have gone — the other way.

"They are not a better team than us," Moad said. "We just couldn't shoot."

The Lady Warriors connected on only 18 of 72 attempts (25 percent). The tandem of 5-9 Jessica Wallace and 5-8 Carrie Simpson, who have led GCHS all season, simply never got untracked.

Wallace was 6 of 16 (35 percent) and Simpson 2 of 22 (9 percent). Together, they hit only 21 percent of their tries.

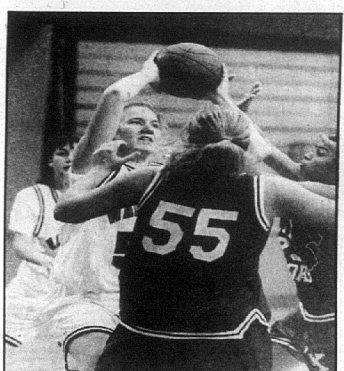
Carrie Simpson was playing on a bad hip," Moad said. "It bothered her a lot tonight."

Simpson missed all 15 of her shots from two-point range.

The teams played even for the game's first five minutes, with the Flyerettes clinging to a slim 5-4 lead. But Latrecia Mosby and Shari Conrad combined for nine straight points in the next 40 seconds and East Side took command 13-4. It was 18-8 after one quarter.

The lead ballooned to 25-11 halfway through the second stanza before the Lady Warriors reeled off a string of eight unanswered points.

(See LADY WARRIORS, Page 2B)



Stephanie Brandt looks to shoot. Brandt had nine points in Tuesday's game.

Harrington, BAC seeking consistency

By Scott Marlon Staff writer

Sixteen games into the season, Belleville Area College basketball coach Jay Harrington still doesn't know what to make of his team.

"We've got the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde syndrome," said Harrington, whose squad was 8-9 after Monday's 78-65 home loss to Wabash Valley. "We had a really good game against Kaskaskia, but we were really bad against Lakeland. We have a good group of kids, but they have some different little problems that cause them to play bad at times."

"We talk about the three C's: concentration, confidence and consistency, and we don't have them right now. On the days we have it, we can play with anybody in the region, but on the days we don't, we're not a very good team."

There have been some bright spots for the Dutchmen, who lost 83-79 to Southern Illinois on Saturday.

Danny Davidson (a 6-4 freshman from St. Louis) and Eric Schwehr (a 6-1 freshman from Lebanon) have really played well since Christmas," Harrington said. "Danny had two 20-point games while Eric had back-to-back games in double figures."

"Defensively we've been very good, but offensively the kids have made some bad decisions as far as passing and shot selection. Against Lakeland — which is third or fourth in the nation in scoring at 104 points a game — we held them to 81 points but still lost by 18."

"The kids are pressing too hard. You want them to play and have fun, but at the same time, there's a certain amount of pressure at this level because you're playing for a scholarship. It's a lot like real life. If they do better for themselves, everybody will be happy no matter what our record is."

Salem Invitational Wednesday, Jan. 22

Game 1: Edwardsville vs. Wood River, 7 p.m.

Game 2: Salem vs. Charleston, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23

Game 3: Centralia vs. Effingham, 7 p.m.

Game 4: Mt. Vernon vs. Granite City, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24

Game 5: Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2, 7 p.m.

Game 6: Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Game 7: Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2, 12:30 p.m.

Game 8: Loser Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4, 2 p.m.

Third place: Loser Game 5 vs. Loser Game 6, 6 p.m.

Consolation championship: Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8, 7:30 p.m.

Championship: Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6, 9 p.m.

Patrick Heston

Kim Gilman, Donna Henderson, Kelly Saunders and Lynette Schrage.

"I'm very happy for them because they are well-organized and understand the big picture."

SIUE volleyball coach Sandy Montgomery said.

"They are very conscientious of their academic progress, and these student-athletes are the kinds of people we recruit and attract to our program."

Granite City High graduate Stephanie Kuit was one of six

women's soccer players named to the team. Other honorees were Kristi Stedman, Lindsay Strode, JoAnne Drake, Lynda Bowers and Stacy Bunden.

The men's and women's cross country teams were also well represented. The men's team was led by seniors George Patriak and Travis Roundcount, who both made the academic team for the second year.

The other members were Derek Bright of Edwardsville and Craig Kirkins, Nichole Done of Granite City was one of three members representing the women's team. Bridget Fitzpatrick and Holly Watts also made the team.

Sonya Wohlman and Robin Tonny represented the women's tennis team.

Kult

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SPORTS

•Lady Warriors

(Continued from Page 18)

to pull within six, 25-19. But the Flyerettes claimed the frame's last four points and the lead was back to 10 at the half, 29-19.

"We let them have a lot of easy baskets off rebounds in the first half," Moad said. "We didn't box out at all. We can't let a team get us down by 10 that way."

Five of East Side's 10 first-half field goals came off offensive rebounds and two others were uncontested layups.

The Lady Warriors continued to miss wide-open shots, including a pair of layups, in the third quarter. But when Debra Aaron entered the lineup at the four-minute mark, the visitors made a move.

Aaron, a 5-10 sophomore and starting JV center, hit two of three field goals and a free throw to draw GCHS to within 43-36 at the third-quarter horn. Simpson's 3-pointer with less than a minute to go in the third period seemed to provide momentum for the Lady Warriors as they opened the final frame.

Wallace, Kara Coleman and Stephanie Brandt each found the range early and Granite City was suddenly within two, 45-43, with 6:10 to play. But a 7-2 spurt shot the Flyerettes out to a 52-45 advantage with just under two minutes remaining.

Wallace led the Lady Warriors with 15 points. Brandt,

who turned in a strong defensive effort, had nine. Coleman netted seven points. Simpson had six. Aaron scored five and Erika Todd finished with four. Becky Gehling, though scoring only one point, played hard-nosed defense in the paint.

Moad powered her way to a game-high 23 points, eight of them on putbacks of her teammates' missed shots. Riquita Mathis followed with 12 points. Conrad hit for eight and Teylen Dixon chipped in five.

"Our inside-outside combination of Mosby and Conrad worked much better tonight than earlier in the season," East Side coach Ronald Hopkins said. "But that is about our only highlight."

"We have some serious work to do," the Granite City press gave us a great deal of trouble (22 turnovers). It proved that we are not in the shape we must be in to play good basketball."

"Our press was working very well," Moad said. "In the fact, we weren't playing well at all until we started using the press. Once we started pressing, something kicked in and we turned up our game a notch."

Still seeking a second win on the season, the Lady Warriors are close.

"We're right there," Moad said. "We need a win. A win will help these girls believe in themselves. Right now, we're doubting ourselves. But, we're not going to quit."



(Staff photo by JOHN FRESE)
Marcus Allen (33) looks for a teammate. Venice defeated Triad in an opening-round game at the Sparta Mid-Winter Classic on Tuesday.

Prep basketball

Highland Girls Invitational

Saturday, Jan. 18

Game 1: Okawville 58, O'Fallon 39

Game 2: Teutopolis 83, Triad 36

Game 3: Paris 70, Highland 62

Game 4: Belleville East 47, Greenville 38

Game 5: Altamont 56, Wesclin 50

Game 6: Carlyle 96, Pinckneyville 49

Game 7: Breese Central 78, Breese Mater Dei 50

Game 8: Edwardsville 57, Breese Mater Dei 50

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Game 9: O'Fallon 70, Triad 48

Game 10: Highland 59, Greenville 47

Game 11: Okawville 55, Teutopolis 45

Game 12: Belleville East 73, Paris 61

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Game 13: Wesclin vs. Pinckneyville, 4 p.m.

Game 14: Althoff vs. Mater Dei, 5:30 p.m.

Game 15: Altamont vs. Carlyle, 7 p.m.

Game 16: Central vs. Edwardsville, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23

Game 17: O'Fallon vs. Highland, 4 p.m.

Game 18: Winner Game 13 vs. Winner Game 14, 5:30 p.m.

Game 19: Okawville vs. Belleville East, 7 p.m.

Game 20: Winner Game 15 vs. Winner Game 16, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24

Game 21: Teutopolis vs. Paris, 5:30 p.m.

Game 22: Loser Game 15 vs. Loser Game 16, 7 p.m.

Consolation championship: Winner Game 17 vs. Winner Game 18, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Fifth place: Winner Game 21 vs. Winner Game 22, 11 a.m.

Third place: Loser Game 19 vs. Loser Game 20, 12:30 p.m.

Championship: Winner Game 19 vs. Winner Game 20, 2 p.m.

Sparta Mid-Winter Classic

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Game 1: Venice 51, Triad 22

Game 2: Sparta 59, Lebanon 44

Game 3: Sparta vs. Waterloo, 6:30 p.m.

Game 4: Venice vs. Lebanon, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23

Game 5: Waterloo vs. Venice, 6:30 p.m.

Game 6: Lebanon vs. Triad, 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24

Game 7: Triad vs. Waterloo, 6:30 p.m.

Game 8: Venice vs. Sparta, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Game 9: Waterloo vs. Lebanon, 6:30 p.m.

Game 10: Sparta vs. Triad, 8 p.m.

Nashville Invitational

Tuesday, Jan. 21

Game 1: Nashville 65, Wesclin 42

Game 2: Madison 67, Freeburg 44

Wednesday, Jan. 22

Game 3: Mascoutah vs. Breese Mater Dei, 6:30 p.m.

Game 4: Breese Central vs. Gibault, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23

Game 5: Wesclin vs. Freeburg, 6:30 p.m.

Game 6: Loser Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4, 8 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24

Game 7: Nashville vs. Madison, 6:30 p.m.

Game 8: Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Fifth place: Loser Game 5 vs. Loser Game 6, noon

Consolation championship: Winner Game 5 vs. Winner Game 6, 1:30 p.m.

Third place: Loser Game 7 vs. Loser Game 8, 6:30 p.m.

Championship: Winner Game 7 vs. Winner Game 8, 8 p.m.

•Champs

(Continued from Page 18)

championships within that circle. There are few that will outnumber the circle where I cover sports. In fact, there are only two. And, by the way, neither of them is in Chicago.

The five Metro East schools that are the focus of my interest and work have combined to win 54 state championships, including 26 in track and field, 10 each in basketball and soccer, and six in football. Only Hinsdale and Winnetka, with 61 titles apiece, have done better.

East St. Louis Lincoln alone has captured 24 state championships in four different sports. East St. Louis Senior and Granite City have both garnered 13 state titles.

In addition, throw in 28 second-place finishes at state, 21 third-place finishes, a trio of fourths, and that's 107 final four appearances within a 25-mile radius of this small corner of Southwestern Illinois.

So, talk about championship cities and regions all you want. We put the trophies where the talk is.

And that's why I'm here. Why would I be anywhere else?

Chicago certainly can't hold a candle to us. And neither can C. Sorry, I promised not to mention that word.

Sports shorts

Park softball

The Granite City Park District Women's and Coed Softball organizational meeting for 1997 will be held 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29 at the Harold Brown Recreation Center, located at Franklin and Amos Avenue.

The Men's and Church Softball organizational meeting for 1997 will be held 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, also at the Harold Brown Recreation Center.

The meetings are for team managers from last year's program and for those who would like to manage this year. The Park District's Baseball and Ponytail Softball meeting for 1997 will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28 at the Harold Brown Recreation Center. It is important that all teams be represented, since rules and regulations will be discussed. The meeting is also for all team managers from last year's programs and for those interested in managing a team this year.

For more information, call Ray Hoffman at the Wilson Park office (877-3059).

Mitchell registration
The Mitchell Athletic Club is taking team registration for its summer recreational league (no select) in baseball, softball and T-ball.

Boys and girls ages 4-19 are eligible. For more information, call Dave at 931-3950.

Park league sign-ups

The Granite City Park District is now taking registration for boys and girls wanting to play youth baseball, tee-ball or ponytail softball this summer.

The sign-ups are for boys and girls who would like to play in the 1997 summer park leagues but are not currently on a park district team or have never played in the park district leagues.

Boys and girls who will be ages 6-16 may have their name placed on the list. Every effort will be made to place them in a team.

Boys and girls tee-ball is for ages 6-7, youth baseball for ages 8-16 and ponytail softball is for ages 8-16.

New teams are formed from the compiled list. Names on the list are also used by managers of existing teams that want to fill their rosters.

Anyone interested in coaching or managing a youth baseball, tee-ball or ponytail softball team may visit the Wilson Park office or call Ray Hoffman at 877-3059.

Soccer registration

Open registration for the Granite City Soccer Club will be held every Tuesday and Thursday in January from 6 to 8 p.m. at the soccer complex concessions building, located at Illinois 3 and North Street.

Registration is for boys and girls born 1983 through 1992. Children born in 1993 may

register for the instructional fun soccer camp. If interested, call 876-9000.

Cougars tourney

The Florissant Cougars annual soccer tournament will be held Feb. 17-March 2 at the Jamestown Sports Complex. The competition is for boys and girls K through U-18.

For entry information, call Jim Pool at (314) 831-2840 or Jeff Schilly at (314) 831-2836. The deadline for registration is Feb. 1.

All-star tryouts

The St. Louis International Youth Baseball Association will select an all-star team to play baseball in Australia in March 1997. The team is open to boys born March 30, 1985, or later.

For more information, call Al Bond at (314) 845-3032.

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Dana Bodner and parents Karen and Bob look at a wedding cake from Patty Cakes of Highland.

It's a bridal extravaganza!

Brides-to-be converged on Collinsville's Gateway Center Sunday where they found just about everything they needed to make their wedding day complete.

Except maybe for a groom. The Third Annual Bridal Extravaganza featured more than 30 exhibitors who

covered it all for that special day.

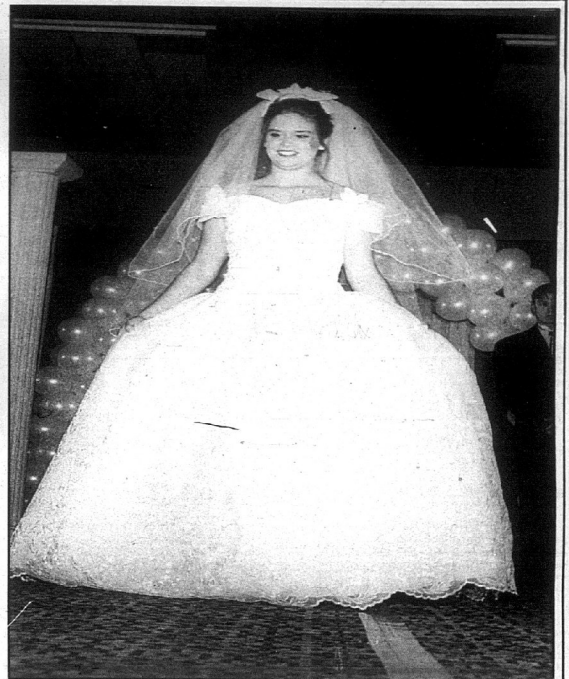
Beauty aids, jewelry, photography, travel, catering, floral arrangements, limousines and music and disc jockey options were just some of the services available.

A fashion show and musical entertainment were

among the day's highlights.

The show, in its third year at Gateway Center, is the largest in Southwestern Illinois.

The show was presented by Faber and Partners and co-sponsored by the *Suburban Journals* and Illinois' own radio station, 880 AM WINU.

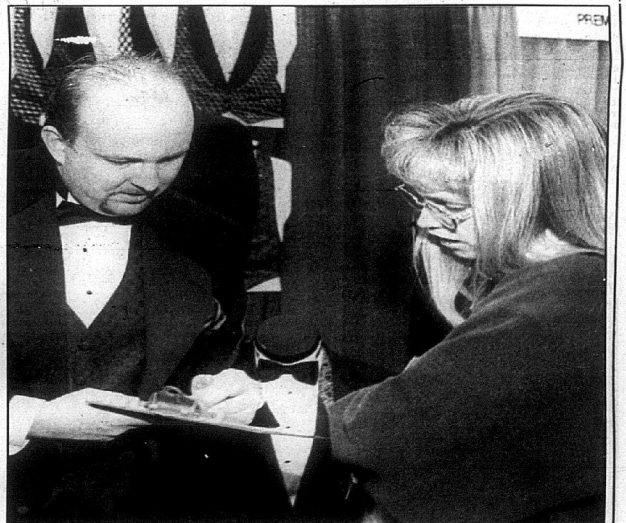


(Photos by KEN AUBUCHON)

The focal point of the event: The gown.



Bob Ellison, left photo, from O'Fallon, sings for the crowd. His group is called "A Step Beyond." In the photo below bride-to-be Jene Iftner, from left, her mom Cary Iftner and bridal party member Kim Martin sample food from Catering Concepts Plus. Missy Thompson from Glen Carbon, right photo, talks to Terry Harper representing Gingiss in St. Clair Square.



Artist is 'in love with' Miner's Theater

By Nicole Vaughn
Staff writer

Marc Sovia was always drawing as a child, so it shouldn't have been surprising when he began oil painting at 12.

"It was just a natural progression," he said.

He received a bachelor of arts degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in 1991 but stopped short of where a master's degree might have taken him.

"I'm just not sure I'd want to go where that would have led, which I guess is teaching art at the college level," Sovia said. "I never want to have to wear a tie."

Today, Sovia is the "artist in residence" in a studio on the third floor of the Miner's Theater, 204 W. Main St. in Collinsville. Sovia helps with set designs for the theater and does little things to help the building's restoration along.

"I'm one of the few people that have been in probably every nook and cranny of this building, and I'm in love with every part of it," Sovia said. "I really want to see it restored."

He is surrounded there by his work, ranging from giant canvases bearing

"I'm one of the few people that have been in probably every nook and cranny of this building, and I'm in love with every part of it."

out religious themes to Trompe-L'oeil illusions: paintings directly on the wall. The items — a piece of wood trim, a dish above a door — look like their real counterparts from a distance.

Sovia recently completed a mural at Isle of U, downtown Collinsville's gourmet coffee and candy store, and is working on a painting of Lady Justice for a Belleville attorney.

"I don't get a lot of oil commissions," Sovia said. "I don't have galleries representing me. The gallery scene is its own world."

Sovia admires the "old masters," or Renaissance artists, and it is that admiration that is reflected in his

religious works.

"It fulfills that part of me that appeals to the Renaissance," Sovia said.

Sovia said he would like to do more of the works and is encouraged by a pending sale of one religious piece to an Arkansas church.

"I'd rather be inspiring people that way than have rich, uppity people buying art for art's sake," Sovia said. "If it inspires people spiritually, so much the better."

Sovia said he is strongly influenced by Caravaggio, who gave human qualities to his godlike figures, and by John Singer Sargent, a turn-of-the-century portraitist.

"If I could paint like Sargent, well..." Sovia said. "From a distance, his people are so realistic, then you get up close and you see all these lovely brush strokes."

Sovia can spend as little as an hour — or as much as 200 to 300 — on a single work. After painting on giant canvas, Sovia said he is learning to "paint small" again. But regardless of its size, a blank canvas is still intimidating.

"When I'm working on an old canvas, I'm much less inhibited," Sovia said. "Starting out with a blank one is subconsciously a little

"In the last year, I've really begun discovering film as an art form. Two years from now I may move to Hollywood and not paint anymore — but I don't think so."

frightening."

Sovia enjoys the outdoors and carries a portable easel in his car to occasionally capture a landscape. Whether he is in the studio, at his part-time job as a screen printer or playing bass with the band Bent, Sovia is never far from his painting.

"When I'm not doing art, I'm thinking about it probably," Sovia said.

He enjoys his musical career, and the band is having some success with a four-song compact disc.

"I've had some great experiences and seen a lot of places," Sovia said of touring with the band. "It's the best seat in the house to be, in a

junky van driving around the country."

While he enjoys the separateness of his interests, Sovia also is trying to share his love of painting. It's just one art form Sovia is trying to share with others. The Studio Of Visual Arts (SOVA) opened last fall.

In addition to drawing and painting classes, Sovia is offering yoga and the ancient practice of Tai Chi, which combines movement and breathing techniques to achieve relaxation.

"This is the kind of thing that should be going on here," Sovia said. "Hopefully, it will bring an arts center to the community that I think we need."

A Tai Chi class is starting Jan. 23 with instructor and certified massage therapist Pat Purdue of Collinsville. Art and dancing classes start in March. Call Sovia at 344-2120 for more information.

Sovia's art interests have expanded to film with the recent adventures of local independent filmmaker Kelly Laster.

"In the last year, I've really begun discovering film as an art form," Sovia said. "Two years from now I may move to Hollywood and not paint anymore — but I don't think so."

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